ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A reference chart including a plurality of patterns for sampling each of characteristic quantities indicating characteristics of a defective image is read by an image scanner targeted for checking, and image data is stored in a memory. An image analyzing section samples the characteristic quantity of each of the plurality of patterns expressed in the image data. Sampling of the characteristic quantities is hardly affected by a displacement between ideal image data and the above stored image data. A correlation table holding section holds a correlation table which associates each phenomenon name for classifying defective image and at lest one of the characteristics quantities corresponding to the phenomenon name. Referring to the correlation table, a phenomenon name specifying section specifies a phenomenon name of a pattern region in which the characteristic quantity is sampled by the characteristic quantity sampling section from among the plurality of patterns expressed in the image data.